

**Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA)  
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)  
Aging & Adult Services Agency (AASA) Virtual Meeting  
Friday, June 18, 2021**

**Meeting MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Commission Chair Wishart.

**ROLL CALL**

The commission roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dona Wishart, Mark Bomberg, William Bupp, Georgia Crawford-Cambell, Nancy Duncan, Walid Gammouh, Marshall Greenhut, Peter Lichtenberg, Guillermo Lopez, Tene Milton-Ramsey, Michael Pohnl, Bob Schlueter, Linda Strohl, and Kristie Zamora.

**COMMISSIONER EXCUSED**

Kathleen LaTosch

**AASA STAFF PRESENT**

Presenters/Facilitators: Brenda Ross, Scott Wamsley, Jen Hunt, Kelly Cooper, Cindy Masterson, Kristina Leonardi, and Laura McMurtry.

Attendees: Ryan Connelly, Ashley Ellsworth, Amy Hall, Sophia Hines, Jordan Incorvaia, Dawn Jacobs, Tari Muniz, Jennifer Onwenu, Becky Payne, and Sally Steiner.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commission Chair Wishart requested a motion to approve the CSA agenda, with Cindy Masterson replacing Scott Wamsley as presenter under Financial Updates.

A motion was made by Commissioner Duncan and Commissioner Greenhut seconded the motion. The agenda, as amended, was approved by voice vote.

**APPROVAL OF CSA MEETING MINUTES**

Commission Chair Wishart requested a motion to approve the May 21, 2021, CSA meeting minutes without amendments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schlueter and Commissioner Crawford-Cambell seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

**COMMISSION CHAIR OPENING REMARKS**

Commissioner Wishart welcomed all to the virtual meeting offering thanks to commissioners for the gifts of their time and talents. She offered the following comments.

- Although Director Hertel was unable to attend today due to scheduling conflicts, we are reaching out to identify a meeting she will be able to attend soon.
- We look forward to hearing about SAC applicants and reapplicants as well as updates to the SAC bylaws later in the meeting. A special thanks to SAC Chair Commissioner Zamora and the review committee for their work on these items.
- The SAC Annual Report has been approved and is currently being distributed. It was also highlighted at the Area Agency on Aging Association of Michigan (4AM) conference this week. A special thank you to 4AM and their associates for a very successful virtual conference, “Stronger Together”. There were many special presenters including Dr. Alexis Travis, Commissioner Peter Lichtenberg, and several network partners as well as many of our own SAC members.
- Currently, we have special permission for a virtual meeting in July. Some epidemic orders are being changed and will go into effect on Tuesday, June 22, 2021. We will be sure to keep you updated if these orders were to change our ability to meet virtually in July.
- July is the month we will see some commissioners’ terms coming to an end and we will see appointments and possible reappointments to the CSA. There will be special committee appointments announced at the July meeting as well.
- Special recognition was offered to Commissioner Peter Lichtenberg whose term will be ending in 2021. Due to other commitments, he did not seek reappointment to the CSA. Because of the special work he is doing in July, this will be the final CSA meeting he attends. On behalf of the entire CSA--both current commissioners and those who have served with him over time--and the AASA staff, Commissioner Wishart offered thanks and celebration of all his expertise given to the commission, partner agencies, and people across the state of Michigan. A plaque honoring his service was presented virtually and read aloud. She thanked him for the opportunity to work with him as a friend and a colleague and wished him great success.
- We look forward to a presentation on brain health by members of the Alzheimer’s Association, Michigan Chapter. Commissioner Nancy Duncan will also share a story of her personal experience with Alzheimer’s and her time as a family caregiver.
- Commissioner Lichtenberg will also be giving a presentation on elder abuse and financial exploitation.

### **STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING (SAC) UPDATE**

Commissioner Kristie Zamora, SAC Chairperson, provided an update on the work of the council.

- Council met on May 27, 2021, for a virtual meeting. AASA leadership shared reports and the four workgroups provided updates on research for the Aging in Place report. Angie Perone, SAGE Metro Detroit Executive Director, provided a presentation on aging in place for the LGBTQ+ older adults.
- The CSA/SAC Application/Bylaw Committee met and has recommended appointments, reappointments, and amendments to the bylaws, all of which will be discussed during the Business Items portion of the meeting.
- The SAC presented the newly published report, Social Isolation with a Focus on

Equity, at the 4AM virtual conference entitled, “Stronger Together”. Presenters were SAC Chair Zamora and co-vice chairs Audra Frye and Margorie Hobe, and SAC members Pat Rencher, Joseph Sowmick, Adam Burke, and Elizabeth Thompson. Many positive comments were offered by attendees.

- The next virtual SAC meeting will be held July 22, 2021. All commissioners are welcome to attend, and they would like one commissioner to join as a guest speaker to share the work of the commission.

### **CSA ADVOCACY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Commissioner Duncan, Advocacy Committee Chair, provided an update on the work of the committee.

- Since the last CSA meeting, no formal public action has been taken on the state budget. Revenue estimating conferences have taken place, and those numbers will be used when developing the budget. The legislature and the administration will use the numbers for ‘target setting’ - assigning spending targets to the major budgets. Conference Committees will then meet to discuss differences and develop budgets.
- Both the House and Senate are supporting the waiver program. The Senate included funding for increase to direct care worker wages. The House has a \$100 placeholder for the wages. Due to the realization of increased state funds available, it is possible the increase will now be included by the House.
- Neither House nor Senate has included the requested funds for wait lists for AAA services. It is still possible they could be included, but not likely.
- Concerning the issue of quarterly allotments of appropriated money, the CSA-approved the Advocacy Committee’s development of a letter to the legislature at the May meeting. By the time the committee met to develop the letter, the legislature has rescinded their position and agreed to annual funding. Therefore, a letter was not needed, but the committee is watching for any changes.
- Still working on learning more about the balancing of funding between long-term care and in-home and community care services. The committee had a learning session with the Chief Operating Officer from Region 4 and will continue to hear from other experts in this area. They will then take the information and potentially bring recommendations to the CSA regarding augmenting funding for services.
- Watching guardianship bills introduced in both the House and Senate with bipartisan support.
- There is the potential of support for broadband services for seniors and the committee will monitor where advocacy efforts could help.
- Watching some federal bills regarding Alzheimer’s and home and community-based services.

### **AGING AND ADULT SERVICES SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT**

Scott Wamsley provided the following updates:

- Reviewing most recent MDHHS epidemic orders to determine their effect on state government operations as well as programs funded across the state. Looking to see what adjustments need to be made to aging network guidance

regarding service delivery.

- Also reviewing the Open Meetings Act and how the changes will affect our meeting virtually vs “in person”.
- COVID-19 vaccination updates:
  - 80.2 percent of adults 65-74 in Michigan have received their first dose.
  - 77.4 percent of adults 75 and older in Michigan have received their first dose.
  - 60.8 percent of the total Michigan population have received their first dose.
- While in transition, AASA continues to follow the set of prescribed activities under the Older Americans Act and the Older Michiganians Act. “Business as usual” continues, supporting the aging network across the state. As news about the transition of leadership within AASA unfolds, the Commission will be informed.
- Preparing to return to working in the office, under a hybrid model, on July 12. Working with the MDHHS and the Office of State Employer to support both in-office and remote work to ensure staff can continue to provide excellent service to the network.
- House Bill No. 4235, the background check extension bill, has been signed by the Governor. Operating Standards for service providers will reflect the policy in this legislation.
- AASA staff has completed four of the six sessions on “Advancing Equity through Systems Change”. The trainings will begin for CSA members as well as the network in the coming months.
- AASA is engaged in the broad strategy around the Direct Care Worker Registry. The first phase of the effort to secure financial approval for technology has been completed. The next phase to develop the IT and work with the network partners, will take place over the next several weeks.
- Virtual Senior Center project is moving through the approval process, with a target of late summer for the rollout of virtual services.
- National Core Indicators Aging and Disability project (NCI-AD) pilot has been completed. This included face-to-face surveys in the network, that were paused due to the pandemic and replaced with telephone and video surveys. The second phase of the project will be statewide telephone survey (800 participants) that includes community-based programs, nutrition programs, and in-home services programs.
- Food Bank Council of Michigan (FBCM), in partnership with MDHHS, recently received a Feeding America Boundless Collaborations grant to support a statewide grocery delivery program for older adults facing food insecurity. The FBCM applied for the program with MDHHS and three regional food banks. The grant initiates a feasibility study and project model which sets the path for statewide implementation.
- Staff are busy working on audits.
  - State Long Term Care Ombudsman general audit
  - Area Agency on Aging oversight audit
- AASA recently added two new staff to the team.
  - Marla Price, starting on July 28, 2021, as the Health Promotion and Active

Aging Nutrition Specialist. She is a Registered Dietitian and a Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist. She brings 25 years of professional experience, nearly 20 of which have been in the nutrition, health, and wellness field. Marla's early career specialized in community nutrition, weight management, and clinical bariatrics. The past 7 years she has served as a Nutrition Specialist at Memorial Healthcare's Community Wellness, Nutrition and Diabetes Center, educating and Counseling patients (mainly Seniors) manage their chronic disease states, And connecting them with community programs to provide ongoing support for improved outcomes and increased quality of life.

- Kayla Smith, starting on July 12, 2021, as the Health Promotion and Active Aging Health Promotion and Wellness Coordinator. Kayla has served in a wide range of health and wellness positions during her career stemming from a foundation based at Grand Valley State University where she earned a BA in Clinical Exercise Science. She has 7+ years of experience working with the aging and older adult population and is excited to continue to serve those individuals.

### **LEGISLATIVE, COMMUNICATIONS, AND AASA PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATES**

Jen Hunt, AASA State Assistant Administrator provided legislative and communication updates. Her presentation is included with the minutes.

### **FINANCIAL UPDATES**

Cindy Masterson, AASA Operations and Aging Network Support Division Director, provided updates and a spreadsheet with budget information is included with the minutes.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

#### **a. Request for Approval of Program Year 2021-2022 Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) Allocations**

Laura McMurtry, SCSEP Program Manager, provided an overview stating the SCSEP is authorized, under Title V of the Older Americans Act, to provide part-time employment and training opportunities for low-income adults, 55 years and older, at community service agencies. The U.S. Department of Labor is proposing a 2nd quarter employment target of 36.9 percent. A chart indicating the award allocations was provided to Commissioners.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schlueter to approve the Request for Approval of Program Year 2021-2022 Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) Allocations. Commissioner Bomberg seconded the motion.

Additional discussion followed and the motion was approved by roll call vote 14-0-0.

#### **b. Request for Approval of the State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC) Appointment and Reappointments**

Commissioner Kristie Zamora, SAC Chair, provided an overview stating the CSA/SAC Applicant Review/Bylaws Committee comprised of Commissioners

Georgia Crawford-Cambell, Linda Strohl, and herself, along with Commission Chair Dona Wishart, met to review applications. Their process was thorough and resulted in the recommendation of appointing five outstanding individuals for appointment.

- Sandy L. Falk-Michaels
- Angel Angel
- Elizabeth A. Lester-Miles
- Kenneth D. Mahoney
- Ann M. Randolph

The committee further recommended three outstanding individuals for reappointment.

- Angela K. Perone
- Glenn M. Clemence
- Patricia A. Rencher

A motion was made by Commissioner Lichtenberg to approve the State Advisory Council on Aging appointments and reappointments. Commissioner Bupp seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote 14-0-0.

**c. Request for Approval of the State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC) Bylaws**

Commissioner Kristie Zamora, SAC Chair, provided an overview stating every three years the CSA is required to review the SAC bylaws. The CSA/SAC Applicant Review/Bylaw Committee, along with Commission Chair Wishart, met on June 10, 2021, to review and discuss the bylaws. The committee recommends several edits, which were explained by Commissioner Zamora, and provided to all commissioners.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gammouh to approve the State Advisory Council on Aging Bylaws. Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote 14-0-0.

**d. Request for Approval of Fiscal Year 2021 United States Department of Agriculture Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) Funding**

Kristina Leonardi, Health Promotion and Policy Management Division Director provided an overview stating each lead agency received 150-\$20 books for distribution. Fiscal Year 2020 unredeemed local coupon funds were returned to the county of origin in the form of coupon books. Counties may purchase additional books which will be distributed through a third allocation based on need.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bupp to approve the Request for Approval of Fiscal Year 2021 United States Department of Agriculture Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program funding. Commissioner Milton-Ramsey seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote 13-0-1, with Commissioner Wishart abstaining.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

#### **a. Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month**

Melanie Baird, V.P. of Programs and Colin Ford, Public Policy Director with the Alzheimer's Association Michigan Chapter, provided a presentation on the association and their advocacy efforts in Michigan. Their presentation is included with the minutes. Commissioner Nancy Duncan also shared her personal story of caring for a loved one with Frontal Temporal Dementia. Information from her presentation is included with the minutes.

#### **b. Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation**

Commissioner Peter Lichtenberg presented information on this topic. His presentation is included with the minutes.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next *virtual* Commission on Services to the Aging meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Friday July 16, 2021, with a Public Hearing following at 1:00 p.m.

**Please note, these meeting are open to the public and anyone wishing to attend may do so. Those needing technical assistance should contact Brenda Ross at [rossb11@michigan.gov](mailto:rossb11@michigan.gov) at least five business days prior to the meeting date.**

### **ADJOURN**

Commission Chair Wishart adjourned the meeting at 12:26 p.m.